(b) the number of personnel who have been killed there; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by Government on the Indian Defence Personnel in Maldives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A total of 2072 Armed Forces personnel were sent to Maldives during the first week of November, 1988.

(b) No Armed Forces personnel was killed during the operations.

(c) The expenditure involved has not been separately computed.

Collaboration in the seed sector

*351. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms and conditions laid down by the Department of Biotechnology for Indian Companies/Firms for allowing foreign collaborations in the seed sector under the new policy on seed development involving foreign equity participation as well as technical collaboration on royalty payment bais, separately;

(b) whether the Indian Companies/Firms are required to have any other clearance or approval from any other Ministry/Department for such collaborations; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the names of the Companies/Firms which have been allowed such collaboration during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The norms and conditions for Indian Companies/Firms for allowing foreign collaboration in the seed sector under the new policy on seed development was laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and not by the Department of Biotechnology. The new policy was announced on 16.9.1988 by the Ministry of Agriculture. The new policy has not laid down any new norms or conditions for allowing foreign collaboration in the seed sector. However, the policy was announced with a view to encouraging seed production on commercial lines, upgradation of planting materials methodologies to provide best planting materials to the farmers. The new policy on seed development emphasises upon certain quarantine regulations and specifies the categories of organisations who are eligible to import the seeds and planting materials. As an incentive to indigenous production, import duty on seed has been reduced to 15 per cent. Such duty deduction shall be accorded only to seeds meant for sowing and to planting materials. Policy also provides for pre-shipment credit upto 180 days at 9.5 interest per annum and beyond 180 days, the rate of interest is marginally raised. Besides cash compensatory support, income tax rebate and backward areas subsidy are also being considered for seed producing industry.

(b) The approval for foreign collaboration proposal in the Seed Sector is issued by the Department of Industrial Development on the recommendations of the concerned Departments or by the Administrative Ministries under the powers delegated to them.

(c) In the last six months the following Companies have been allowed foreign/technical collaborations:

(i) M/s. Cadgil Seeds India (P) Ltd.

(ii) M/s. PHI Biogene (P) Ltd.

(iii) M/s. ITC Agrotech Ltd.

(iv) M/s. Bejo Sheetal Seeds (P) Ltd.

(v) M/s. Bihar Seeds Corporation.

(vi) M/s. Nath Seeds (P) Ltd.